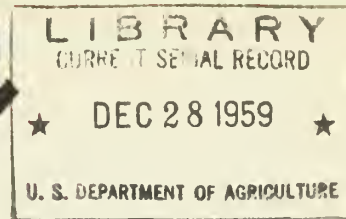


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Foreign



CROPS AND MARKETS

To
all of
its readers:
Foreign Crops and
Markets wishes you a
very Merry Christmas and
a New Year of health, peace,
and prosperity

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FOR RELEASE MONDAY,
DECEMBER 21, 1959

VOLUME 79
NUMBER 25

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U. S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Single copies free to persons in the U. S. from the Foreign
Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington 25, D. C., Room 5922. Phone: DUDley 8-2445.

1959 World Milk Production Down About 1 Percent. Foreign Agriculture
Circular FD 17-59. 3 pp.

World Output of Dairy Products in Second Quarter of 1959. Foreign Agri-
culture Circular FD 18-59. 5 pp.

The Feed Industry of France. Foreign Agriculture Circular FG 13-59. 12 pp.

Western European Net Imports of Fats and Oils Up Sharply in January - June.
Foreign Agriculture Circular FFO 25-59. 4 pp.

Major Policy Changes Affect Indian Agriculture. Foreign Agriculture Circu-
lar FATP 30-59. 12 pp.

Cuban Policies Call for Agrarian, Tax, and Tariff Reform. Foreign Agri-
culture Circular FATP 31-59. 7 pp.

(Continued on back page)

ONTARIO SETS FLUE-CURED TOBACCO PRICE

The Farm Products Marketing Board of the Province of Ontario, Canada, announced that a minimum average price of 56 cents a pound had been established for Ontario's 1959 flue-cured tobacco crop. The minimum average price set for the 1958 crop was about 52 cents; however, the average price received was about 48 cents, due primarily to a heavy discount on tobacco on which maleic hydrazide was applied.

The average minimum price for the 1959 crop was established by a Board of Arbitration following a lack of agreement between "growers" and "buyers" in previous attempts to get a price established before the markets opened.

It has been reported that the minimum grade prices run from 62.75 Canadian cents per pound for top grades BL-2, CL-1, and CF-3 to 16.75 Canadian cents per pound for XGL-6. No minimum prices were set for non-descript grades.

Ontario growers of flue-cured tobacco now sell by the Dutch Clock Auction System through their three warehouses in Tillsonburg, Aylmer, and Delhi. The auctions opened on November 23rd. Total sales through December 2 were 11.4 million pounds, at an average of 54.9 cents per pound.

TOBACCO, FLUE-CURED: Minimum grade prices for 1959-crop in Ontario, Canada

Grade	Price	Grade	Price	Grade	Price	Grade	Price
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:Canadian	:	:Canadian	:	:Canadian	:	:Canadian	:
: cents	:	: cents	:	: cents	:	: cents	:
:per pound:	:	:per pound:	:	:per pound:	:	:per pound:	:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
BL-1...	62.50	BM-6...	28.50	CL-4...	61.50	CCR....	50.25
BL-2...	62.75	BGL-3...	56.75	CL-5...	58.00	XL-2...	57.75
BL-3...	62.00	BGL-4...	53.00	CL-6...	50.75	XL-3...	55.00
BL-4...	59.25	BGL-5...	42.75	CF-3...	62.75	XL-4...	49.75
BL-5...	54.25	BGL-6...	31.25	CF-4...	60.75	XL-5...	39.00
BL-6...	41.75	BGF-3...	51.75	CF-5...	53.75	XL-6...	25.00
BF-2...	62.00	BGF-4...	47.25	CF-6...	42.75	XF-3...	42.75
BF-3...	61.00	BGF-5...	37.75	CGL-3...	58.00	XF-4...	44.75
BF-4...	57.50	BGF-6...	26.50	CGL-4...	55.25	XF-5...	33.50
BF-5...	49.00	BCR....	49.25	CGL-5...	48.00	XF-6...	21.00
BF-6...	33.50	CL-1...	62.75	CGL-6...	32.75	XGL-5...	24.25
BM-4...	53.50	CL-2...	62.75	CGF-5...	44.00	XGL-6...	16.75
BM-5...	45.00	CL-3...	62.50	CGF-6	28.25	:	:

INDIA'S FLUE-CURED TOBACCO EXPORTS DROP

India exported 44.4 million pounds of flue-cured tobacco in the first 6 months of 1959 at an average price equivalent to 46.9 cents per pound. For January-June 1958, exports of flue-cured totaled 51.9 million pounds at an average price of 41.4 cents.

The United Kingdom, as usual, was the principal market for Indian flue-cured in January-June 1959, taking 32.8 million pounds or 74 percent of the total. Export prices to the United Kingdom averaged 53 cents per pound. Mainland China, which purchased 8 million pounds of Indian flue-cured leaf in January-June 1958, took none in the first half of 1959. Markets taking at least 1 million pounds this year included Ireland, the Netherlands, and Hong Kong.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: India, exports of flue-cured January-June 1959

Destination	Quantity	Average price	Destination	Quantity	Average price
	1,000	U.S. cents		1,000	U.S. cents
	pounds	per lb. 1/		pounds	per lb. 1/
United Kingdom..	32,848	53.0	Nigeria.....	634	26.5
Ireland.....	3,406	57.7	Ghana.....	584	37.6
Netherlands....	2,072	14.0	Soviet Union..	295	11.0
Hong Kong.....	1,031	10.8	Egypt.....	258	4.5
Germany, West...	998	12.8	Others.....	1,414	27.4
Belgium.....	817	14.7	Total.....	44,357	46.9

1/ Converted at 1 rupee = 21 U.S. cents.

U. S. CIGARETTE EXPORTS CONTINUE TO GAIN

The United States exported 14 percent more cigarettes during January-September 1959 than in the first 9 months of 1958. At this rate, cigarette exports in 1959 should total more than 19 billion pieces.

Exports to Morocco, the leading foreign market for U. S. cigarettes in the first 9 months of 1959, were 21 percent greater than in the comparable period a year ago. Exports to Venezuela, however, declined 7.5 percent. The Venezuelan Government plans to drastically curtail cigarette imports in 1960.

A sharp rise in cigarette exports to the Federation of Malaya has been due in part to improvement of port facilities to receive cigarettes formerly imported through Singapore. U. S. cigarette exports to Singapore dropped 12 percent in 1959. The growing popularity of American filter-tip cigarettes abroad and rising purchases of American brands by tourists are contributing to the rapid growth in U. S. cigarette exports. Kuwait and the Netherlands Antilles increased imports of U. S. cigarettes to meet demand by prosperous oil workers and for distribution to nearby areas.

A sharp rise of 36 percent in exports of U. S. cigarettes to destinations other than the 20 major markets indicates the growing demand for American cigarettes. Exports to Surinam were up 183 percent, Bahrein 88, Lebanon 52, Egypt 45, Bermuda 44, the Bahamas 28, and Finland 27 percent.

CIGARETTES: U. S. exports, by country of destination,
January-September 1957-59

Destination	January-September			Percent change 1959 from 1958
	1957	1958	1959	
	Million pieces	Million pieces	Million pieces	Percent
Morocco.....	1,457	1,529	1,848	+ 20.9
Venezuela.....	1,628	1,946	1,801	- 7.5
Hong Kong.....	832	832	1,008	+ 21.2
France.....	1,079	892	954	+ 7.0
Netherland Antilles.....	243	513	727	+41.7
Belgium.....	443	695	661	- 4.9
Singapore.....	<u>1/</u> 643	601	531	- 11.6
Kuwait.....	290	380	507	+ 33.4
Netherlands.....	311	311	418	+ 34.4
Sweden.....	453	473	390	-17.5
Italy.....	326	379	347	- 8.4
Cuba.....	289	326	346	+ 6.1
Germany, West.....	403	316	345	+ 9.2
Denmark.....	349	343	344	+ 0.3
Ecuador.....	363	302	337	+ 11.6
Switzerland.....	201	196	251	+28.1
Peru.....	152	200	232	+16.0
Malaya, Federation of.....	---	66	237	+259.1
Canada.....	242	248	236	- 4.8
Colombia.....	92	250	209	-16.4
Others.....	2,689	2,634	3,579	+ 35.9
Total.....	12,485	13,432	15,308	+ 14.0

1/ Includes Federation of Malaya.

SOUTH AFRICA INCREASES DECIDUOUS FRUIT PLANTINGS

A 1958 tree census in South Africa shows a total planting of 2.9 million apple trees. This is an increase of .4 million over 1955. Red Delicious accounted for 21 percent and Granny Smith 17 percent of the trees. White Winter Pearmain, Dunn's Seedling, and Golden Delicious represented 43 percent. Production should almost double during the next 8 years.

Pear trees totaled 1.4 million--an increase of .2 million over 1955. Only 46 percent of the pear trees have reached bearing age. Bon Chretiens constitute over half of the plantings and Packham's Triumph 20 percent. Bosc and Hardy together amounted to 18 percent. Bosc plantings have decreased and many of the trees have been top-worked with other varieties.

These were 360,000 plum trees, a 10 percent decrease from 1955.

RHODESIAS AND NYASALAND RELAX CONTROLS ON AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS

Effective November 27, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland removed restrictions on imports of foodstuffs from the dollar area, and on imports of many nonagricultural goods not previously liberalized.

Among the agricultural items liberalized, wheat and flour, canned soups, fruits and vegetables, and pudding and cake powders are of current trade interest. Tallow is already on open general license. Seasonal restrictions on imports of some foodstuffs from all countries are still in effect. Some agricultural imports may require specific import permits from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture for various reasons, including phytosanitary regulations.

The Federation gets most of its wheat from Australia, but has been importing 15 to 20 percent of its requirements from the United States and Canada. In 1959, it has imported about 10,000 tons of high-protein and high-gluten wheat from the United States. Moderate, but steadily increasing flour imports since 1954 have been largely confined to Nyasaland, where a modern biscuit and confectionery plant has recently started operation.

CUBAN IMPORTS OF U. S. FARM PRODUCTS DECLINE

Although Cuban imports of U. S. agricultural products were about the same in the first half of 1959 as in the first half of 1958, imports in the third quarter of 1959 dropped from \$49.9 million to \$30.6 million. This decrease is attributed to a "buy Cuban products" campaign and to Cuba's shortage of foreign exchange.

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR COUNCIL SETS PROVISIONAL QUOTAS FOR 1960

At its meeting in Tangier in late November, the International Sugar Council forecast probable 1960 sugar import requirements and export availabilities of the world free market.

Supplies to be available were estimated to be about 1.2 million short tons in excess of probable demand. Based on this evaluation, the Council then fixed provisional initial export quotas for its export member countries at 87.5 percent of basic export tonnages. The 12.5 percent reduction in quotas below the full export tonnages was calculated to have the effect of reducing supplies that could be exported within quotas by about 900,000 short tons, and by so doing, achieve a closer balance with demand. This initial allocation is subject to review and final confirmation before April 1, 1960.

The International Sugar Council is the executive body of the International Sugar Agreement through which the member countries are seeking reasonable and moderately stable prices for that portion (about one-third) of the world's total sugar exports which must be sold competitively outside of such regulated systems as the U. S. Sugar Act and the British Commonwealth Sugar Agreement.

VENEZUELAN COCOA QUALITY IMPROVES

In the past 2 years, Venezuela has been producing larger quantities of the better grades of cocoa, according to the Ministry of Agriculture. Better fermenting and curing practices are becoming more common, possibly because the government subsidy paid for the "Extra-fino" and "Fermentado" grades is higher than that for the "Corriente" grade. The table below shows how the quantity marketed has been distributed among the 3 grades:

Year	Corriente		Fermentado		Extra-fino	
	Metric : : tons	Percent	Metric : : tons	Percent	Metric : : tons	Percent
1959 <u>1/</u>	6,472	63.4	3,018	29.5	724	7.1
1958.....	10,513	78.3	2,287	17.1	613	4.6
1957.....	11,865	80.1	2,403	16.3	535	3.6

1/ January-September.

It is also reported that eastern Venezuelan cocoa is no longer being shipped through La Guaira-a practice which lowered quality. A limited number of permits, however, are issued to local manufacturers who wish to use eastern "Corriente" grade in their products.

NEW ZEALAND ELIMINATES LAMB DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

New Zealand has eliminated the deficiency payment of 2.25d (2.63 cents per pound) on lambs as of December 6, 1959 (see Foreign Crops and Markets November 16, 1959). The deficiency payments will continue on yearlings and older wethers at 2½d. (2.92 cents) per pound, and on older ewes at ½d. (.58 cents) per pound.

CUBAN CATTLE SLAUGHTER UP

Cuban cattle slaughter rose to 739,000 head during January-September 1959--8 percent above the same period last year. Slaughter of other types of livestock fell. Total meat production rose to 381.2 million pounds--6 percent above January-September 1958 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, April 6, 1959).

Heavy cattle slaughter has caused some reduction in prices. Live weight prices at the farm are reported as low as 7 cents per pound for old cows and 11 to 13 cents for finished (grass-fat) animals. Maximum cattle prices were reduced by the new Cuban Government on May 22, 1959 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, June 15, 1959).

Beef exports have also risen. Shipments to Venezuelan, Puerto Rican, and continental U.S. ports were reported during the third quarter of 1959. Further shipments to Venezuela were planned for the last quarter of 1959. On November 20, a law authorizing an export quota of 1,000 "high grade" cattle per month was approved (see Foreign Crops and Markets, November 16, 1959).

CUBA: Livestock slaughter and meat production,
January-September 1956-59

January-September	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep	Goats	Meat produced 1/
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Million pounds
1956.....	678	645	28	25	340.0
1957.....	698	640	27	27	356.0
1958 2/.....	685	632	27	27	358.8
1959.....	739	629	26	27	381.2

1/ Carcass weight. 2/ May be underestimated due to unreported slaughter during civil disturbances.

U.K. AUTHORIZES IMPORTS OF PORK FROM DOLLAR AREA

The British Board of Trade has announced that 25,000 long tons of fresh and frozen pork may be imported from North America. The imports will come chiefly from Canada.

VENEZUELA MAY EASE HIDE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

The Venezuelan Ministry of Development has been conferring with representatives of the cattlemen's association and the tanning industry regarding the importation of hides. Increased demand and reduced slaughter have resulted in a scarcity of hides which has forced prices up from approximately 12 cents per pound in 1958 to the present level of 21 cents.

Hide imports were restricted in July 1958 when imports of untanned cattle hides and tanned hides or leather of unspecified animals of the equine species were made subject to prior licensing by the Ministry of Development.

NEW ZEALAND WOOL PRICES IMPROVE

New Zealand wool prices were generally higher at the Napier sales on November 18 and 20. Most types were near the season's opening level at Dunedin in October. Prices now range approximately 23 to 38 percent above last season's opening level and 3 to 9 percent above last season's close. The larger increase has been in the coarser types.

Average prices for grease wool this season should be considerably above the 1958-59 average of 42.1 cents--the lowest since 1948-49. This season's auction prices on selected dates are as follows:

Description	Type	Dunedin Oct. 17	Wanganui Nov. 13	Napier Nov. 20
		U.S. cents per pound		
Crossbred fleece:				
Extra fine.....	93B : 50/56's	61.0	58.1	60.1
Fine.....	100B : 50's	60.1	57.2	58.9
Medium.....	114B : 46/50's	58.4	56.6	58.1
Strong.....	128B : 46/48's	56.6	55.7	56.9

New Zealand Wool Commission.

SWEDEN FURTHER INCREASES
HORSEMEAT IMPORT DUTIES

The Swedish State Agricultural Marketing Board has increased the import duty on horsemeat, in carcasses or quarters, from 91 to 101 kronor per 100 kilos--8 to 8.8 cents per pound. This is the second increase in recent weeks (see Foreign Crops and Markets, December 7, 1959).

U.S. GRASS AND LEGUME SEED EXPORTS
SLIGHTLY LESS THAN A YEAR AGO

U.S. exports of grass and legume seeds for the July-October period of the current crop year total 8,269,000 pounds, compared with 8,320,000 pounds for the same period last year. Clover seed shipments, with the exception of alsike, are down, and most grass seed exports are below last year's 4-month period. The only marked increase is in uncertified alfalfa seed, most of which has gone to Mexico.

Canada, Mexico, Italy, France, and West Germany received the largest shipments in October.

GRASS AND LEGUME SEEDS: U.S. exports, October 1959,
with comparisons

Kind of seed	October		July 1-October 31	
	1958	1959	1958	1959
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
Alfalfa, certified.....	795	777	1,248	1,246
Alfalfa, uncertified.....	159	557	469	1,277
Total alfalfa.....	954	1,334	1,717	2,523
Alsike.....	11	59	62	128
Ladino.....	261	182	520	380
Clover, other.....	264	128	654	416
Bentgrass.....	542	361	664	760
Fescue.....	813	396	1,441	1,172
Kentucky bluegrass.....	246	35	520	87
Orchard.....	62	0	62	34
Redtop.....	93	92	109	128
Timothy.....	151	56	607	119
Grasses, other.....	678	1,082	1,964	2,522
Total.....	4,075	3,725	8,320	8,269

CHILEAN BEAN ACREAGE DOWN, BUT PRODUCTION FORECAST UP

The area planted in Chile to beans for harvest in February-April 1960 is estimated at 200,000 to 210,000 acres, compared with 218,000 last year. As the yield was poor last year, only 1,330,000 bags were harvested. The 1960 harvest is now forecast at about 1,800,000 bags. Judging by past production data, about 800,000 bags of these will probably be exported varieties--50 percent arroz, 25 percent red kidney, 20 percent cristales, and the balance other export classes.

FRANCE ANNOUNCES FURTHER RELAXATION OF CITRUS FRUIT IMPORT CONTROLS

Imports of citrus from all foreign countries can be made "on a consignment basis," the French Government has announced. Summer oranges were previously freed for import, providing they are sold through auctions and do not have color added. Winter oranges still require import licenses.

Under the new regulation, a French importer who has an import license may receive shipments of all citrus fruit, except summer oranges, from all countries. But, such shipments must be on consignment and must not be color-added.

MALAYAN PINEAPPLE FACES INCREASED COMPETITION

Competition in the world market has reduced exports of Malayan canned pineapple and lowered price levels. Two canneries in Singapore have temporarily suspended operations. Since 2 other plants closed down completely at the end of the last season, only 3 of the 7 canneries which packed pineapple last year are now operating.

The industry in Malaya is hampered by obsolete methods of production and the resistance of workers to mechanization. Thus, high production costs in the face of relatively low price levels are cited as the cause of the plants' closing.

Operating canneries are refusing fruit from small, independent growers and are packing only fruit grown on their own lands. Normally, about 40 percent of the fruit packed is obtained from the small holdings.

The Governments of Singapore and the Federation of Malaya have established a joint commission to study the industry's problems and to make recommendations. In the meantime, growers and any section of the industry requiring assistance will be subsidized.

NEW FRENCH FRANC BEING ADOPTED

The "heavy" franc, which the French Government announced on December 28, 1958 (when currency was made convertible for nonresidents), will become effective on January 1, 1960. The new monetary unit will be called "nouveau franc" (new franc), or N. F. It will equal 100 old francs; thus the rate of exchange (par value) will be 4.937 francs per U.S. dollar, compared with the present rate of 493.7 francs per dollar.

The new franc will be used in metropolitan France and the Department of Algeria and Sahara and, at a later date, in the Overseas Departments of Guadeloupe, Guiana, and Martinique.

For a time, present bank notes will be overprinted in red with their new value until new bills and coins (including a silver 5-franc piece approximately the value of a U.S. dollar) can be turned out and circulated. It has been estimated that it will take about 5 years to replace the old notes and coins.

ITALY GROWING MORE OLIVES, BUT IMPORTS EXCEED EXPORTS

Italy's 1959 table olive production is estimated at 33,000 short tons, or about 15 percent more than last year's 28,800-ton crop. Quality, however, is reportedly poor because of heavy dacus fly infestation in the southern producing regions.

During 1958 and the first 8 months of 1959, Italy imported more table olives than were exported. In 1958, 1,024 short tons of table olives were imported, and 719 tons exported. In the first 8 months of 1959, imports amounted to 1,219 tons (990 tons bulk and 229 tons canned), while exports were 266 tons (182 tons bulk and 84 tons canned). Lack of consistency in grading standards and some shipments of reportedly wormy fruit have been handicaps to exporters.

U.K. SUFFERING FROM FOWL PEST EPIDEMIC

Outbreaks of fowl pest in Britain this year are reported to have totaled 856 through November 11, 1959, and 1.5 million birds have been slaughtered at a cost of about \$3.5 million. Outbreaks of the disease totaled 759 in 1958 and 1,034 in 1957.

The disease has become more critical in the early winter months. Outbreaks totaled 188 in October and 110 in the first 9 days of November. As a result of the recent outbreaks, more stringent marketing measures have been put into affect.

If the epidemic becomes increasingly serious, there may be an increase in imports of U. S. canned and frozen cooked chicken, recently liberalized.

**WORLD BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES: Wholesale prices at specified markets,
with comparisons
(U. S. cents per pound)**

Country, market, and description	Butter				Cheese			
	Quotations				Quotations			
	Cur-: Month : Year				Cur-: Month : Year			
	1959	rent:	earlier:	earlier:	1959	rent:	earlier:	earlier:
United Kingdom (London)								
New Zealand, finest-----	Oct.29	51.2	49.0	31.8				
Australian choicest-----	Oct.29	51.1	48.9	31.6				
New Zealand, finest								
white-----					Oct.29	37.6	36.4	33.1
Australian choicest								
white-----					Oct.29	37.1	35.9	32.2
Australia (Sydney)								
Choicest butter-----	Oct.29	48.5	48.5	48.5				
Choicest cheddar-----					Oct.29	29.2	29.2	29.2
Irish Republic (Dublin)								
Creamery butter-----	Oct.29	54.8	54.8	54.8				
Cheese-----					Oct.29	30.8	30.8	30.8
Denmark (Copenhagen)-----	Oct.22	49.4	46.1	34.6				
France (Paris)								
Charentes creamery-----	Nov.2	82.2	81.4	75.8				
Germany (Kempton)								
Markenbutter-----	Oct.28	70.2	68.5	65.9				
United States								
92-score creamery (N.Y.):	Oct.28	64.2	62.9	59.2				
Cheddar (Wisconsin)-----					Oct.28	34.0	34.2	34.5
Netherlands (Leeuwarden)								
Creamery butter-----	Oct.26	62.6	56.4	41.1				
Full cream Gouda-----					Oct.23	30.4	27.6	24.1
Edam, 40 percent-----					Oct.23	28.0	25.0	22.9
Belgium (Hasselt)-----	Oct.29	80.5	76.9	76.9				
Canada (Montreal)								
1st grade creamery-----	Oct.31	67.1	66.7	65.4				
Ontario white-----					Oct.31	37.0	36.9	34.0

Source: Intelligence Bulletin, the Commonwealth Economic Committee; and the Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

THAILAND REACHES RICE EXPORT AGREEMENT WITH INDONESIA

A Thai trade mission, now touring in Asia, recently concluded a 3-year rice agreement with Indonesia. Fifty thousand metric tons (1,102,000 cwt. of 100 pounds) of rice will be purchased by Indonesia in 1960, and 150,000 tons (3,306,000 cwt.) in 1961 and 1962.

The price will be negotiated each year. The rice grade is expected to be similar to the 100,000 tons sold to Indonesia in 1959 at £32 per metric ton (around \$4.00 per cwt.), f.o.b. Bangkok. The 1960 amount may be increased later in the year.

ITALIAN RICE SUPPLY LARGER

The Italian rice supply of 1959-60 (September 16-September 15) is up nearly 7 percent from the preceding year. The 1959 harvest was the largest since 1955, and carryover stocks were moderately above those a year earlier.

RICE (rough): Italian supply and distribution, September 16, 1957-September 15, 1960

Item	1957-58	1958-59 <u>1/</u>	1959-60 <u>2/</u>
	<u>1,000 cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 cwt.</u>
Supply:			
Beginning stocks.....	4,206	1,235	1,764
Production.....	14,048	15,538	16,094
Total.....	18,254	16,773	17,858
Distribution:			
Consumption.....	10,336	10,159	10,200
Exports.....	6,683	4,850	3/6,600
Ending stocks.....	1,235	1,764	1,058
Total.....	18,254	16,773	17,858

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Unofficial forecast. 3/ Available for export.

Compiled from official and unofficial sources.

The most recent estimate of the 1959 harvest--late August into November--is 16,094,000 cwt. (100 pounds) of rough rice, somewhat above the earlier estimate of 15,000,000 cwt. The crop surpasses the 15,538,000 cwt. of 1958, but is 14 percent below the average of 1950-54.

Despite the warning of the Ente Nazionale Risi to reduce plantings of fine and semi-fine (medium to long-grain) varieties, their production is presently estimated at 57 percent of the total crop. This is larger than expected.

Final returns of Italy's 1958-59 (September 16-September 15) exports are not yet available. They are estimated at around 4,850,000 cwt. in terms of rough rice. Principal destinations were Germany, the United Kingdom and territories, Austria and Switzerland.

Officials are now trying to secure a trade agreement on rice with the U.S.S.R. Negotiations have been under way for the shipment there of substantial quantities of medium-to-long-grain varieties, the less popular type among Italian consumers. Italy also will endeavor to improve its European market, especially Scandinavia.

Because of the good 1958 crop and decreased exports, the Italian rice market was rather weak in 1958-59. Prices registered a further decline from the relatively low level at the end of 1957-58. This was especially true of medium-to-long grain varieties. Prices for short-grain varieties were steadier, reflecting greater demand for that type.

"Originario", the principal short-grain in the Italian market, in October 1958 sold wholesale at \$7.66 per cwt. In May 1959 it brought the same price, then rose each month to \$7.83 per cwt. in August. In September, it declined to \$7.75, and fell further in October to \$7.58, or below the level of October 1958.

ARGENTINE WHEAT EXPORTS LOWER,
CORN EXPORTS HIGHER

Argentine wheat exports during July-October 1959 were 683,000 metric tons, down about 11 percent from those during the same period in 1958. July 1959 exports were 283,000 tons, about 49 percent higher than in July 1958. However, shipments dropped substantially in August-October 1959. In the last month of this period they were only 118,000 metric tons, compared with 281,000 in October a year earlier.

Brazil and the United Kingdom, the principal buyers of Argentine wheat, took 67,000 and 59,000 tons, respectively, less in July-October 1959 than during the first 4 months of 1958-59 (see table, page 16).

Corn exports during July-October 1959 were about 43 percent higher than the 778,000 tons exported in the same months of 1958. Shipments to Belgium-Luxembourg, West Germany, the Netherlands, and Japan were about 57 percent higher than the 636,000 tons exported to them a year earlier. In contrast, exports to the United Kingdom during July-October 1959 were only 94,000 tons against 119,000 tons in the same months of 1958.

Barley exports during July-October 1959 were 70,000 tons, more than twice those in 1958. West Germany was the principal destination of the barley. Total exports of rye and oats during July-October 1959 were only 29,000 tons, compared with 121,000 tons a year earlier. Export figures for sorghums are not available for July-October 1958; sorghums accounted for 34,000 tons of the total grain exported during July-October 1959.

GRAIN: Argentine exports, July-October 1958 and July-October 1959

Country of destination	Wheat	Rye	Corn	Oats	Barley	Sorghums 1/	Total
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
July-October 1958:							
United States	--	--	3,904:	--	--		3,904
Brazil	454,388:	--	--	5,524:	2,000		461,912
Paraguay	20,200:	--	--	--	--		20,200
Peru	20,039:	--	--	--	--		20,039
Austria	10,713:	--	3,470:	--	--		14,183
Belgium-Luxembourg:	11,601:	3,970	73,349:	6,092:	1,000		96,012
Czechoslovakia ...:	--	--	539:	1,500:	--		2,039
Denmark	2,200:	1,600	2,500:	4,236:	--		10,536
France	8,720:	--	--	--	--		8,720
West Germany	94,752:	6,973	56,945:	29,436:	20,487		208,593
Italy	--	5,212	208,228:	4,000:	492		217,932
Netherlands	27,808:	11,835	210,251:	20,584:	6,295		276,773
Norway	4,050:	--	2,028:	--	--		6,078
Rumania	--	6,931	--	1,150:	--		8,081
Sweden	800:	6,205	1,800:	1,190:	--		9,995
Switzerland	--	--	7,769:	420:	--		8,189
United Kingdom ...:	106,262:	--	119,032:	4,302:	--		229,596
Japan	--	--	86,956:	--	--		86,956
North Africa	--	--	1,605:	--	--		1,605
South Africa	8,168:	--	--	--	--		8,168
Total	769,701:	42,726	778,376:	78,434:	30,274	1/	1,699,511
July-October 1959:							
United States	--	--	1,639:	--	--	--	1,639
Canada	--	--	--	--	--	75	75
Brazil	387,357:	--	--	1,754:	6,143	--	395,254
Chile	50,000:	--	--	--	--	--	50,000
Paraguay	30,155:	--	--	--	--	--	30,155
Peru	22,771:	--	2,210:	--	--	--	24,981
Uruguay	8,356:	500	840:	1,000:	5,305	--	16,001
Austria	--	2,889	1,650:	--	--	--	4,539
Belgium-Luxembourg:	1,600:	200	124,393:	--	--	13,030	139,223
Denmark	--	200	1,150:	1,000:	--	290	2,640
France	14,760:	--	2,890:	--	--	--	17,650
West Germany	93,844:	12,405	82,334:	1,500:	47,355	400	237,838
Italy	--	1,098	423,331:	2,840:	7,914	2,178	437,361
Netherlands	18,910:	1,270	218,982:	--	2,358	15,330	256,850
Sweden	--	1,200	3,150:	--	--	20	4,370
Switzerland	--	--	10,396:	--	--	--	10,396
United Kingdom ...:	46,791:	800	93,918:	--	--	2,894	144,403
Japan	--	--	148,756:	--	--	--	148,756
Lebanon	8,820:	--	--	--	1,350	--	10,170
Total	683,364:	20,562	1,115,639:	8,094:	70,425	34,217	1,932,301

1/ Not available prior to September 1959.

Source: El Cerealista.

BURMA AND POLAND SIGN
RICE AGREEMENT

Under a new Burmese-Polish agreement, Poland will buy 30,000 long tons (672,000 cwt. of 100 pounds) of rice from Burma annually for 3 years. Burma will purchase Polish textiles, machinery, and other industrial products. Barter provisions were not included in the agreement. In lieu of barter, Burma can accept limited credits for financing technical assistance or other Polish services. Details are yet to be worked out.

PAKISTAN EXPORTS HIGH-QUALITY RICE

By late November, Pakistan had sold for export 81,000 long tons (1,814,000 cwt. of 100 pounds) of rice under the export bonus scheme initiated last February, according to an official press release. About \$10,500,000 was earned in foreign exchange, and 4 million rupees (\$840,000) in Pakistani currency.

Quantities and varieties already sold were 35,000 long tons of Basmati; 30,000 tons of Begmi, and 16,000 tons of Parmal. Also, prior to December 1, another 5,000 tons of Basmati rice was being sold for export. Data on prices and destinations of the 1959 rice exports will soon be available.

As of December 1, no export bonus is allowed and the purchase and export of rice is entirely in the hands of private trade (see Foreign Crops and Markets, October 5, 1959).

THAILAND LIFTS BAN ON
GLUTINOUS RICE EXPORTS

Thailand removed its export ban on glutinous rice in early November. The ban was imposed September 1, when a domestic shortage was expected; however, the supply of glutinous rice has improved and the 1959-60 crop should be available soon.

Glutinous rice is produced and consumed in north and northeastern Thailand; it accounts for about 30 percent of the country's rice production. Principal outlets for Thai glutinous rice are Singapore, the Federation of Malaya, and Hong Kong. Current glutinous rice export prices (f.o.b. Bangkok) are 4 to 12 percent higher than last year, with the medium-quality grades showing the greatest increase.

EXPORTS OF SOME EGYPTIAN
COTTON BANNED

On December 8, 1959, Egypt banned exports of certain qualities of medium and long-staple cotton, in order to meet local consumption needs. Varieties and grades affected by the ban are: Ashmouni, Good plus $\frac{1}{4}$; Dandara, Giza 47, and Giza 30, grades good and below.

UGANDA RAISES MINIMUM COTTON PRICES

The Government of Uganda recently announced an increase in minimum prices to producers for the 1959-60 cotton crop. This reversed the decision of May 1, 1959, to reduce 1959-60 prices by about 13 percent from those paid in 1958-59 (Foreign Crops and Markets, June 8, 1959).

Prices for the current crop are now equivalent to roughly 21.8 U.S. cents per pound, lint basis, for S-47 variety and 22.1 cents for BP 52. Earlier announced prices for the 1959-60 crop were 18.4 and 19 cents per pound for S-47 and BP 52, respectively; in 1958-59, they were 21.3 and 21.6 cents, respectively.

The increase in prices was justified by strengthening prices for cotton on world import markets, and the sharp reduction in the 1959-60 Ugandan crop--from 330,000 bales in 1958-59 to an estimated 250,000 bales this season. With the smaller crop, higher support prices to producers are not expected to result in excessive withdrawals from the Cotton Price Assistance Fund.

COLOMBIA TO EXPORT COTTON

About 4,000 bales (500 pounds gross) of Colombian cotton will be exported in the next few weeks under the recently adopted cotton export subsidy plan. Sales of this cotton, which represents surplus production in the Cauca Valley, were contracted by the Institute of Cotton Development (IFA). Principal destinations of the exports reportedly will be the United Kingdom and other European countries.

This is the first commercial export of cotton from Colombia in many years, and reflects recent, rapid increases in production. The current crop in Colombia, estimated at 250,000 bales, is up 67 percent from the 1958-59 crop of 150,000 bales, and more than double average production of 116,000 bales in the preceding 5 seasons (1954-48).

EGYPT'S 1959-60 COTTON CROP NEAR RECORD

The 1959-60 cotton crop in Egypt is expected to be the second largest on record. The second official government estimate, released December 8, places it at 2,087,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight.

This estimate is slightly higher than the first 1959-60 official estimate of 2,074,000 bales and is 2 percent above the 1958-59 crop of 2,048,000 bales. It exceeds by 22 percent average production of 1,707,000 bales in the preceding 5 seasons and is exceeded only by the 1937-38 crop of 2,281,000 bales.

Production of medium long staple Giza cotton increased substantially this year, but production of extra long staples declined.

COTTON: Egypt, production by staple length and variety, final estimate 1958-59, and second estimate 1959-60

Staple length and principal varieties	1958-59	1959-60	Percentage change
	1,000 bales <u>1/</u>	1,000 bales <u>1/</u>	Percent
Extra long staple, over 1-3/8": Karnak, Menoufi, and Giza ⁴⁵	1,200	1,082	-10
Medium long staple, over 1-1/4": Giza 30, 31, and ⁴⁷	160	301	+88
Long staple, over 1-1/8": Ashmouni.....	640	656	+2
Subtotal.....	2,000	2,039	+2
Scarto (unclassified cotton).....	48	48	0
Total.....	2,048	2,087	+2

1/ Bales of 500 pounds gross.

Source: Government of Egypt.

U. S. COTTON IMPORTS UP SLIGHTLY THIS SEASON

U. S. imports of cotton for consumption during the first 3 months (August-October) of the 1959-60 season were equivalent to 123,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight. This was a slight increase from imports of 121,000 bales in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Principal sources during August-October 1959, with comparable 1958 figures in parentheses, were: Egypt 66,000 bales (58,000); Mexico 38,000 (33,000); Peru 15,000 (25,000); India 2,000 (1,000); Sudan 1,000 (1,000); and Brazil 1,000 (1,000).

The global quota for long-staple cotton (1-1/8 inches or more) totaling about 95,000 bales, and the country quota for Mexico of about 18,500 bales of upland-type stapling under 1-1/8 inches, were fully subscribed on the opening days of the current quota years beginning August 1 and September 20, 1959, respectively. As a result, imports in October, at 1,500 bales, were relatively small compared with the 2 preceding months of this season.

Most of the October imports consisted of short harsh Asiatic-type cotton from India, not subject to quota restrictions.

U. S. IMPORTS LESS
COTTON LINTERS

U. S. imports of cotton linters, mostly felting qualities, were 42,000 bales during August-October of the current season (1959-60)-- down 9 percent from 46,000 bales a year earlier. Linters imports in October 1959 were 13,000 bales, compared with 16,000 bales in September, and 11,000 bales in October 1958.

Principal sources during August-October 1959, with comparable 1958 figures in parentheses, were: Mexico 31,000 bales (36,000); U.S.S.R. 7,000 (2,000); Guatemala 2,000 (198); El Salvador 2,000 (4,000).

INDIA ALLOWS FURTHER
COTTON IMPORTS

In late November, the Government of India announced an additional cotton import quota of 280,000 bales of 400 pounds gross (equivalent to about 230,000 bales of 500 pounds gross).

Allocations by staple lengths and countries are as follows: (1) 135,000 bales of U. S. Public Law 480 cotton stapling 1-1/16 inches and above; (2) 85,000 bales stapling 1-1/16 inches up to but not including 1-3/16 inches from any country; (3) 30,000 bales stapling 1-3/16 inches and above from any country; and (4) 30,000 bales to mills qualifying under the textile export incentive scheme. These mills have the option to import from either of the two staple length categories allowed from any country.

This is the second import quota released this season (1959-60), bringing the total to 460,000 bales (about 375,000 bales of 500 pounds gross).

PHILIPPINE COPRA, COCONUT OIL
EXPORTS DOWN 15 PERCENT

Philippine exports of copra and coconut oil in January-November totaled 431,195 long tons, oil basis, consisting of 586,893 tons as copra and 61,452 tons as oil. Combined shipments were down 15 percent from the comparable period last year. Copra shipments were off 14 percent while coconut oil exports fell 28 percent.

Shipments of desiccated coconut in January-November were 50,214 short tons, slightly below the 50,323 tons exported in the first 11 months of 1958. Over 98 percent of the desiccated coconut went to the United States.

The copra export price in mid-November ranged from \$214.00 to 216.00 per long ton f.o.b. Philippine ports for December delivery. Local buying prices were reported at 44.00 to 45.00 pesos per 100 kilograms (\$223.53 to 228.61 per long ton) rescada Manila and 38.50 to 44.00 pesos (\$195.59 to \$223.53 in producing areas.

**COPRA: Philippine Republic, exports by country of destination,
November and January-November 1958 and 1959**

Country of destination	November		January-November	
	1958 1/	1959 1/	1958 1/	1959 1/
	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
North America:				
United States.....	21,752	17,665	241,688	271,916
Pacific Coast.....	(21,752)	(17,665)	(241,688)	(271,916)
Canada.....	---	---	1,800	---
Panama.....	---	750	2,662	750
Panama Canal Zone.....	---	---	---	401
Total.....	21,752	18,415	246,150	273,067
South America:				
Chile.....	200	---	200	---
Colombia.....	---	1,250	34,953	7,400
Venezuela.....	2,192	1,150	18,161	23,496
Unspecified.....	---	1,100	---	2/ 10,800
Total.....	2,392	3,500	53,314	41,696
Europe:				
Belgium.....	---	1,000	9,500	3,500
Denmark.....	2,250	4,000	16,550	19,490
France.....	1,250	2,000	11,560	5,000
Germany, West.....	3,500	4,750	52,465	33,580
Italy.....	---	500	12,860	4,500
Netherlands.....	18,447	31,280	191,665	169,244
Norway.....	---	1,500	10,000	7,960
Spain.....	---	---	100	3,500
Sweden.....	---	6,850	25,565	13,350
Optional discharge 3/.....	5,700	4/ 2,700	46,102	5/ 9,031
Total.....	31,147	54,580	376,367	269,155
Asia:				
Israel.....	---	---	3,020	---
Japan.....	---	---	500	---
South Korea.....	---	---	---	225
Lebanon.....	---	---	4,200	1,250
Syria.....	---	---	---	1,500
Total.....	---	---	7,720	2,975
Grand total.....	55,291	76,495	683,551	586,893

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes 4,700 tons to Colombia/Venezuela optional discharge. 3/ West Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, or Italy. 4/ Includes 2,700 tons to "Europe unspecified". 5/ Includes 2,700 tons to "Europe unspecified" and 1,000 tons to France/Italy/Lebanon optional discharge.

**COCONUT OIL: Philippine Republic, exports by country of destination,
November and January-November 1958 and 1959**

Country of destination	November		January-November	
	1958 1/	1959 1/	1958 1/	1959 1/
	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
North America:				
United States.....	5,247	2,643	79,652	2/ 55,638
Atlantic Coast.....	(5,247)	(2,643)	(75,407)	(2/ 52,433)
Pacific Coast.....	(---)	(---)	(4,245)	(3,205)
Cuba.....	---	---	350	---
Total.....	5,247	2,643	80,002	55,638
Europe:				
Netherlands.....	---	---	4,814	5,814
Total.....	---	---	4,814	5,814
Grand total.....	5,247	2,643	84,816	2/ 61,452

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes July correction adding 225 tons.

Source: Philippine trade sources.

FRENCH WEST AFRICAN PEANUT CROP DOWN IN 1959-60

Commercial peanut production in 1959-60 in the 7 semi-independent republics of the former Federation of French West Africa is preliminarily estimated at 960,000 short tons, unshelled. This is a reduction of 5 percent from the outturn in 1958-59. Expected purchases in 1959-60 and actual purchases in 1958-59, by republics, are as follows (in 1,000 short tons):

Republic	1958-59	1959-60
Senegal.....	783	705
Niger.....	127	150
Soudan.....	93	93
Others.....	12	12
Total.....	1,015	960

The estimates for 1959-60, except for Senegal, may be somewhat on the high side, possibly by 5 to 10 percent. Ministers of Agriculture in several producing areas have noted that rainfall during the year was either insufficient or irregular.

The French Government has decided to raise the support price for peanuts, from 100 francs to 102 francs per kilo, c.i.f. French ports, according to press reports. In addition, the shipper payment to the support fund will be reduced 1 franc per kilo, enabling producers to receive 3 francs per kilo more than in the previous season. The higher price could encourage producers to sell peanuts previously intended for home use.

MOZAMBIQUE'S EXPORTS DOWN

For the first 9 months of 1959, the value of Mozambique's exports was \$42.6 million--a drop of 16 percent from the same period in 1958. Of the 6 leading exports (cotton, sugar, cashews, copra, tea, and sisal), only tea showed an increase. Tea shipments totaled 8,184 short tons, an increase of 1,694 tons from the comparable 1958 period.

Portugal is expected to buy about 154,000 bales (500-pound) of cotton in 1959. An acute lack of space in Portuguese ships has delayed shipments, and only 67,250 bales of cotton went abroad in the first 9 months of the year.

Cashew exports had the largest drop in volume (46 percent) from the 1958 period. Most of the decline is due to a poor cashew crop this season and greater demand by the local shelling industry. A second shelling plant is nearing completion.

Portugal's share of Mozambique's exports dropped slightly. India's share decreased from 14 percent to 9.2 percent during the 1959 period. However, the United States, the United Kingdom, Norway, and France each had a slightly larger share.

WEST GERMANY ASCRIBES REASON FOR NOT IMPORTING U.S. RYEGRASS SEED

The West German Ministry of Agriculture has indicated that physiological properties of U.S. perennial ryegrass seed, and not quarantine regulations, have been the motivating factor in excluding the U.S. seed from import tenders. It said U.S. perennial ryegrass seed is more susceptible to winterkill and has more stems and less foliage than strains from countries to which the tenders are confined.

INDIA EXPECTS INCREASED CASTOR BEAN PRODUCTION IN 1960

India's castor bean crop to be harvested early in 1960 is expected to be somewhat larger than the 124,320 short tons produced in 1959 as planting was completed under favorable weather conditions. The 1959 outturn was one-fourth larger than the small 1958 crop.

Demand for Indian castor oil by France and the Soviet Union has been good this year. The United States, which was not a buyer of Indian oil in 1958, has been in the market since July. The trade anticipates total exports of about 34,000 short tons from India in 1959, compared with 22,662 tons in 1958 and 47,539 in 1957. Judging by prevailing market conditions, the demand for castor oil will continue strong in 1960.

Castor bean prices in late November 1959 were at the highest level of the season. The futures price in the Bombay market rose to 169.50 rupees per candy of 531 pounds (6.7 cents per pound) on November 17. In the Madras Oilseeds Exchange the futures price reached a new high of 168.62 rupees (6.7 cents) on November 23. The spot price of castor oil in the Madras market on November 24 was 330 rupees for 500 pounds (13.9 cents per pound).

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO HANDLE SOYBEAN IMPORTS

The Japanese Government has proposed a price-support plan for domestic soybeans and rapeseed involving governmental purchase and resale of all imported soybeans. Resale profit would defray the cost of supporting the prices of domestically produced soybeans and rapeseed.

At present price-support levels, a profit of over 2.7 billion yen (\$7,500,000) would be required to support prices of about 220,500 short tons of domestic soybeans and 187,400 tons of rapeseed. In 1958, Japan imported 997,251 tons of soybeans, over 85 percent of which came from the United States.

The government has not decided whether this "momentary touch" system would be applied to soybean imports which may be placed under the Automatic Approval system next year. However, the Ministry of Finance has reportedly criticized the proposal on the grounds that it closely resembles an import duty. The soybean processing industry, especially fats and oils processors, strongly opposes the plan.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Official Business

DURBAN STATION WHALE OIL
OUTPUT DOWN SLIGHTLY

The offshore whaling station at Durban, South Africa, produced 7,039 short tons of whale oil and 4,256 tons of sperm oil in 1959, against 7,111 tons and 4,050 tons, respectively, in 1958. The 1959 season--off the Natal Coast--began in early April and ended the first week in October.

Results from the other South African station operating off Cape Province are not yet available for 1959. Production from this station in 1958 was 2,958 tons of whale oil and 2,566 tons of sperm oil.

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Trends in U. S. Imports of Manufacturing Meat. FAS-M-73. 8 pp.

Drought Interrupts Upward Trend in World Sugar Production. Foreign Agriculture Circular FS 6-59. 8 pp.

Exports of U. S. Fats and Oils Under Title I, Public Law 480. Foreign Agriculture Circular FFO 24-59. 4 pp.

Western European Net Imports of Fats and Oils Up Sharply in January-June. Foreign Agriculture Circular FFO 25-59. 4 pp.

Philippine Food Consumption Rises But Still is Below Nutritional Needs. Foreign Agriculture Circular FATP 32-59. 8 pp.

Foreign Agricultural Trade Digest, November-December 1959. 8 pp.

Postwar Trends in U. S. Cattle Imports. FAS-M-74. 10 pp.